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INFORMATION ONLY

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE  
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**PRESIDENT RHEE THREATENS TO WITHDRAW HIS TROOPS  
FROM THE UN COMMAND**

President Rhee's official note to the US Government on 24 April threatening to withdraw ROK troops from the United Nations Command, because of the cease-fire issue, is the latest step in the direction that Rhee has been moving for the past several weeks. Ambassador Briggs in Pusan will see Rhee on 26 April in an attempt to persuade the President to retract this note. Briggs feels that the South Korean President can still be persuaded to retreat from his position.

While the great mass of South Koreans are war-weary and would probably welcome peace, South Korean politicians, government and opposition alike, have since the beginning of the truce talks been adamantly opposed to any armistice which leaves the peninsula divided. The Government, however, in the past has retreated from its stand against the cease-fire when subjected to external pressure. If he is offered substantial security guarantees -- such as a bilateral pact with the US -- Rhee will probably accept the cease-fire as currently contemplated by the UN. He would probably seek some face-saving explanation, however, to satisfy nationalistic demands for unification.

State Department review completed

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